



**GUAM BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH AND WELLNESS
CENTER**

TO: Joint Guam Program Office (formerly Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse)
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VIA: Office of the Governor of Guam
Attn: Military Buildup Office (Mark Calvo)
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EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor
RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor
REY M. VEGA
Director

SUBJECT: Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness
Center_Input/Comment on the Draft Supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)
PETER ALEXIS D. ADA
Deputy Director

The Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) provides service to all who reside on Guam, both civilian and military population.

GBHWC currently employs 196 professional and support staff. Expansion of a larger treatment center and increasing residential homes in the variety of placement levels for clients is necessary. Through current contractual agreements, 13 residential homes are available for client needs.

There will be a requirement for a variety of services due to stress levels, loneliness, and the absence of family members during the buildup. With the anticipated population increase in the military and civilian population, the demands for evaluation and treatment will increase, to include walk ins, and referrals from schools, hospitals and the Judicial system for alcohol and drug use, and imprudent driving. Many of these referrals will require immediate response and treatment.

The monthly/annual average number of intakes based on the month of April 2014 at GBHWC; there were 40 intakes for the month of April. There were no holidays that month and the accuracy of the data entries for that month will provide effective information. Annual average based on the month of April 2014 is 480.


The following specific comments with cited pages are provided for your review and consideration:

Please change all references in the document for previously named Guam Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (GDMHSA) to Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC).

Page 4-172. “According to Section 4.1.15, Socioeconomics and General Services, health services of the GDPHSS and the GDMHSA target the most in-need populations for health care. **Therefore**, the majority of Guam residents accessing health services from the GDPHSS and the GDMHSA are low income and/or uninsured. However, many people with health insurance also use GDPHSS and GDMHSA services due to unaffordable insurance co-payments or missing coverage for specific services and medications necessitate that they access the free services of these two public agencies.”

The Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) is the only state agency servicing all resident behavioral health and wellness needs. The assumption that only low income and uninsured Guam residents access services at this agency is inaccurate.

We look forward to working with all parties concerned including DoD and the federal government to determine how best to fund the impacts we have identified.


Rey M. Vega

